

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/964,577

Examiner

Cheukfan Lee

Applicant(s)

ATSUSHI YOKOCHI

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an application for patent filed September 28, 2001.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 September 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/17/2001
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


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1. All pending claims 1-22 are allowed. Claims 1, 9, 10, and 17 are independent.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 1, 9 and 17 each require a controller that control a value of current supplied to the driving device, that drives image reading device in a sub-scanning direction, to make the time interval between the two signals detected by the signal interval detecting device corresponding to the predetermined time interval, or a control in combination with other limitations of each of claims 1, 9 and 17. This combination of features is not taught by the prior art of record.

Independent claim 10 requires a controller that performs drive control for the image reading device by increasing or decreasing a value of current supplied to the driving device, that drives the image reading device in the sub-scanning direction, based on a difference between the time interval detected by the signal interval detecting device and the generated predetermined time interval, in combination with other limitations of claim 10. This combination of feature is not taught by the prior art of record.

Claims 2-8 depending on claim 1, claims 11-16 depending on claim 10, and claims 18-22 depending on claim 17 are allowable for the reasons given for claims 1, 10 and 17, respectively.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sunazaki Tomohiro (Japanese Publication No. 2001-127965) discloses an image scanner and a start-stop control method, which makes the time difference the same between the image reading start timing and the excitation timing of a stepping motor that moves the reading position before the image reading is discontinued and when the image reading is restarted. Machine English translation of this reference is also provided.

Nosaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,177,626) discloses an image reading apparatus for reading a document at a speed corresponding to the document reading density, the apparatus increases or decreases the value of current supplied to the drive motor depending on the density of the document.

Neale et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,335,807) discloses a scanner carriage stop/start artifact suppression system and method.

Lai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,115,149) discloses a motor-speed control apparatus for scanners with a movable scan head.

Wang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,459,507) discloses an image scanner with a stepping control table for a stepping motor which drives the image-scanning module.

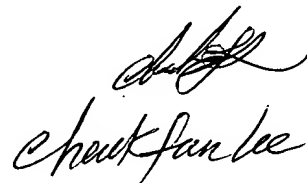
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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheukfan Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-7407. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cheukfan Lee
June 21, 2005

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cheukfan Lee", is written in black ink.